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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6858**

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 168

**NOTE PREPARED:** Dec 19, 2002

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Reimbursement of Teacher Continuing Education.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Kenley

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X GENERAL  
DEDICATED  
FEDERAL

**IMPACT:** State

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill provides that the Department of Education shall reimburse 50% of the tuition paid by certain teachers for continuing education courses that will improve the teachers' knowledge or skill in the teachers' teaching areas. It provides that a teacher who accepts tuition reimbursement must continue teaching for one year for every six credits for which the teacher received reimbursement.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2003.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** The bill reimburses 50% of the tuition paid by a teacher to an institution of higher learning. The course has to further the teacher's knowledge or skills in a teaching area in which the teacher has taught for at least three years. Teachers would be required to teach one year for each 6 hours of credit reimbursement.

The impact would depend on the number of teachers that chose to apply for reimbursement. There are about 53,432 teachers with more than three years of experience. Assuming that 10%, or 5,342, decided to apply for reimbursement and they received six hours of credit with average tuition of \$950, then impact on the state General Fund would be about \$5.1 M annually. The bill appropriates from the state General Fund the amount needed to fund the tuition reimbursement.

*Background Information:* Teachers who do not hold a life license must renew their licenses by completing 6 semester hours of approved college courses every 5 years. After educators earn a master's degree or complete 36 semester hours of approved academic credit, they may renew their licenses with Certification Renewal Credits (CRUs). CRUs are earned by completing approved experiences that do not result in the award of college credit.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Department of Education.

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:**

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